

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A doctor blade in a papermaking machine, comprising:
an elongated doctor blade body;
5 a database; and
a plurality of indicia, each indicia marked on said blade body, wherein the
indicia and the database together indicate cut locations on the blade
corresponding to a plurality of different doctor blade lengths.
- 10 2. The doctor blade of claim 1 wherein the database is incorporated in the
plurality of indicia.
3. The doctor blade of claim 1 wherein the database is separate from the
plurality of indicia.
- 15 4. The doctor blade of claim 1 wherein a first pair of indicia are spaced a
first distance apart to define a first doctor blade length, and wherein a second pair of
indicia defining a second doctor blade of length less than the first distance is positioned
between the first pair of indicia, so that a second doctor blade can be cut from a portion
of the elongated doctor blade body defined by the first doctor blade length.
- 20 5. The doctor blade of claim 1 further comprising a plurality of rivets
mounted to the elongated doctor blade body, the rivets extending from the blade body,
wherein the plurality of rivets are arranged so that each of the plurality of different
doctor blade lengths defines a first end and a second end and one rivet of the plurality of
rivets is positioned within a selected distance of each of said first ends and said second
ends.

6. A reel of doctor blade material, comprising:
an elongated doctor blade body from which a multiplicity of doctor blades can
be cut;
a first pair of indicia marked on said blade body delimiting a first doctor blade of
5 a first length; and
a second pair of indicia marked on said blade body delimiting a second doctor
blade of a second length, the second length being less than the first
length, wherein the indicia denote a relationship to each other.

7. The reel of doctor blade material of claim 6 wherein the the second pair
10 of indicia are positioned between the first pair of indicia so that the second doctor blade
can be cut from a portion of the elongated doctor blade body defined by the first doctor
blade.

8. A doctor blade, comprising:
a database;
15 an elongated doctor blade body; and
indicia in the form of a number line marked on said doctor blade body so that by
means of the database a plurality of different lengths along the elongated
doctor blade body are determinable.

9. A method of reducing a doctor blade inventory comprising the steps of:
stocking a plurality of identical doctor blades of first lengths which have indicia
thereon;

using a first one of said identical doctor blades in a first position on a
papermaking machine; and

cutting a second one of said identical doctor blades in reference to the indicia
thereon to a second length which is less than the first length, and using
the second doctor blade in a second location in the papermaking
machine.

10. The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of cutting a third one
of said identical doctor blades in reference to the indicia thereon to a third length and
using the third doctor blade in a third location in the papermaking machine, the third
length being different than the first length or the second length.

11. The method of claim 10 further comprising the step of cutting a fourth
one of said identical doctor blades in reference to the indicia thereon to a fourth length
and using the fourth doctor blade in a fourth location in the papermaking machine, the
fourth length being different than the first length, the second length, or the third length.

12. A method of reducing a doctor blade inventory comprising the steps of:
stocking a coil of doctor blade material having a multiplicity of indicia thereon;
cutting a first doctor blade of a first length by reference to two spaced apart
indicia of the multiplicity of indicia, and using the first doctor blade in a
first position on a papermaking machine; and
cutting a second doctor blade of a second length by reference to two spaced apart
indicia of the multiplicity of indicia, and using the second doctor blade in
a second position on the papermaking machine, wherein the second
length is different than the first length.

13. The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of cutting a third doctor blade of a third length by reference to two spaced apart indicia of the multiplicity of indicia, and using the third doctor blade in a third position on the papermaking machine, the third length being different than the first length and the second length.

5 14. A reel of doctor blade material comprising:
an elongated doctor blade strip coiled on a cylindrical reel; and
a plurality of indicia formed on the doctor blade body indicating positions for
cutting the doctor blade strip into a plurality of individual doctor blades,
wherein each indicia is related to another indicia to indicate cut positions
10 for doctor blades of different lengths, the indicia including a first
marking and a second marking spaced a first distance from the first
marking, and a third marking and a fourth marking, the third marking
being spaced from the fourth marking a distance less than the first
distance, the markings indicating where the doctor blade strip is to be cut
15 to form a doctor blade of a desired length from the coiled blade strip.

15. The reel of doctor blade material of claim 14 wherein the third marking and the fourth marking are positioned between the first marking and the second marking.

20 16. The reel of doctor blade material of claim 14 wherein the doctor blade strip extends in an axial direction, and has an upper edge and a lower edge parallel to the upper edge, and wherein a plurality of rivets are fastened to the doctor blade strip adjacent the lower edge, and wherein the spacing of of the rivets is greater between the first marking and the second marking, than the spacing of the rivets adjacent either the
25 first marking or the second marking.

17. A doctor blade in a papermaking machine, comprising:

an elongated doctor blade body;

a database; and

a plurality of indicia, said indicia not including regularly spaced structural

5 features on the doctor blade which preform a structural function, each indicia marked on said blade body, wherein the indicia and the database together indicate cut locations on the blade corresponding to a plurality of different doctor blade lengths.

18. A length of doctor blade material, comprising:

10 an elongated doctor blade body from which a plurality of doctor blades can be cut;

a first pair of indicating points on said blade body, delimiting a first doctor blade of a first length; and

15 a second pair of indicating points on said blade body delimiting a second doctor blade of a second length, the second length being less than the first length, wherein at least one of the first pair of indicating points and the second pair of indicating points is the initial end of the doctor blade body, and the indicating points which are not the initial end of the doctor blade body comprise indicia on the doctor blade body.